

SAN ANTONIO FOSSILS 052404

I had to be at work Saturday morning at 7:30, but this afforded me the opportunity to swing by one of my favorite local Pecan Gap sites if I got an early start. End result: One *Echinocorys texanus* urchin and on time arrival at work.

For those of you wondering what these things look like, I've included before and after prep pictures. As you can see, the Pecan Gap chalk often obscures the echinoids with scale, forcing you to look for shape and size. This in itself can take some experience afield to get used to since the Pecan Gap has a tendency to fracture conchoidally (curved breaks) during weathering, with the shattered chalk having much the same shape as the echinoids.



FIGURE 1: *Echinocorys texanus* echinoid as found in the Pecan Gap chalk



FIGURE 2: Same echinoid after prep with air scribe and microblaster

After work today I explored a small, uncharted Eagle Ford exposure not far from my house. The construction site holds Buda and Pecan Gap material as well, but I concentrated on the Eagle Ford in search of shark teeth. I found one almost complete *Squalicorax* specimen as well as one fish vertebra. See photo below. Teeth are not incredibly common in San Antonio, so I tend to hang onto even the damaged ones.



FIGURE 3: Squalicorax tooth from the Eagle Ford limestone 3 miles from my house. Scale in inches

Next report: Hunting the Duck Creek and Grayson formations in the Fort Worth/Denton area this past weekend. It will take me some time to prep all this material out, so it may be a week before I get it together.